

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 117413 TOSEC 040409  
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UNCLAS STATE 117413 TOSEC 040409

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS (BROWN)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL- EXCERPTS FROM SATURDAY MORNING  
COVERAGE OF SALT  
NO. 48

1. BERNARD GWERTZMAN STORY ON PAGE ONE OF NYT. BEGIN TEXT:

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER  
ANDREI A. GROMYKO CONCLUDED THREE DAYS OF TALKS WITH AN  
AGREEMENT ON A FORMULA FOR ENDING THE IMPASSE IN THE  
NEGOTIATIONS TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS, UNITED STATES OFFIC-  
IALS SAID TONIGHT.

THE OFFICIALS STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT FURTHER NEGOTIA-  
TIONS WOULD BE NEEDED TO COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT OF  
THE NEW TREATY LIMITING EACH SIDE'S OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR-  
ARMED MISSILE LAUNCHERS AND LONG-RANGE BOMBERS.

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THE SO-CALLED "FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT," AS DESCRIBED  
PRIVATELY BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS, WAS SAID TO BE A COMPRO-  
MISE BASED ON PREVIOUS AMERICAN AND SOVIET PROPOSALS AND  
OPEN THE WAY TO SIGNING A NEW TREATY BEFORE THE OCTOBER  
EXPIRATION DATE OF THE FIVE-YEAR INTERIM ACCORD.... (SIC)

REPORTERS HAD EXPECTED SOME DEFINITIVE WORD ON THE RESULTS

OF THE VANCE-GROMYKO TALKS TONIGHT AFTER THE TWO MEN CONFERRED FOR AN HOUR AND 40 MINUTES AT THE SOVIET MISSION. BUT INSTEAD, WHEN MR. VANCE RETURNED TO THE HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL, HE TOLD WAITING REPORTERS THAT HE HAD CONCLUDED THE TALKS AND ADDED THAT THEY "HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED AND I BELIEVE THAT VIEW IS SHARED BY THE SOVIETS AS WELL.;

LACKING THE DETAILS OF THE COMPROMISE, REPORTERS WERE UNABLE TO TELL WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE WEEKS SINCE MR. VANCE'S MISSION TO MOSCOW IN MARCH FAILED TO PRODUCE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING THE IMPASSE.

THE BREAKDOWN OF THOSE MOSCOW TALKS PRODUCED A MAJOR STRAIN IN RELATIONS, AND ALL SIGNS NOW SEEM TO POINT TO A MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE.

THE FIRST SIGN THAT THE TALKS WERE MAKING PROGRESS CAME YESTERDAY WHEN SOME AMERICAN OFFICIALS PRIVATELY BEGAN TELLING REPORTERS THAT A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WAS NOW LIKELY. BEFORE ARRIVING HERE MANY OFFICIALS HAD WARNED REPORTERS NOT TO EXPECT ANY MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT IN THESE DISCUSSIONS.

IT NOW SEEMS APPARENT THAT THE TWO SIDES, AFTER THREE DAYS OF TALKS THAT WERE DESCRIBED OFFICIALLY BY THE AMERICANS AS "BUSINESSLIKE, GOOD-FAITH, INTENSIVE, AND WORTHWHILE," HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON TWO ASPECTS OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS PICTURE.

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THEY APPARENTLY HAVE DECIDED HOW TO PROCEED IN OVERCOMING THE REMAINING OBSTACLES TO PUTTING INTO TREATY FORM THE 1974 VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT THAT SET CEILINGS OF 2,400 ON EACH SIDE'S MISSILE AND BOMBER FORCE.

THE FORMULA FOR THIS WAS NOT DIVULGED TONIGHT, ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE IN AGREEMENT. IT IS PRESUMED THAT THE FORMULA WILL INCLUDE SOME UNDERSTANDING ON TWO WEAPONS SYSTEMS THAT HAD PREVENTED PROGRESS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS - THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE AND THE SOVIET BOMBER KNOWN IN THE WEST AS THE BACKFIRE....

2. GETLER - OSNOS STORY ON PAGE ONE OF WASHINGTON POST.  
BEGIN TEXT:

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION APPEAR TO HAVE BROKEN THE LENGTHY IMPASSE IN STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS

DURING THREE DAYS OF "INTENSIVE" TALKS THAT ENDED HERE TODAY.

THE EXTENT OF PROGRESS THE SECRET DISCUSSIONS MADE TOWARD ACTUALLY LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR NEW AGREEMENTS WILL REMAIN UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, UNTIL SATURDAY, WHEN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE IS TO BE ISSUED AND SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE IS TO HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE.

AFTER ALMOST EIGHT HOURS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH A SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO, U.S. OFFICIALS SEEMED PLEASED THAT AT LEAST THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING AND BARGAINING WITH THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN RESTORED....

RETURNING FROM THE FINAL SESSION HERE TONIGHT, VANCE TOLD REPORTERS ONLY, "THE TALKS HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL AS FAR UNCLASSIFIED

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AS WE ARE CONCERNED AND I BELIEVE THE SOVIETS SHARE THAT VIEW."

DESPITE THE RESOLUTE POSITIONS WITH WHICH BOTH SIDES ENTERED THESE TALKS, THE KEY TO THE APPARENT PROGRESS HERE HAS BEEN BOTH COUNTRIES' WILLINGNESS TO MOVE TO SOME DEGREE FROM THESE POSITIONS....

ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS OF THE TIGHTLY HELD DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN REVEALED, THE COMPROMISE MOST WIDELY ANTICIPATED INVOLVES A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY FORMER PRESIDENT FORD AND SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV IN VLADIVOSTOK IN NOVEMBER 1974. THOSE AGREEMENTS WERE NEVER FORMALIZED, HOWEVER.

THIS MODIFICATION WOULD INVOLVE SOME SLIGHT REDUCTIONS IN PERMITTED LEVELS OF NUCLEAR-TIPPED MISSILES AND BOMBERS IN EACH ARSENAL AND, POSSIBLY, SOME FORMULA TO DEAL WITH THE HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS OF NEW U.S. CRUISE MISSILES AND SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBERS....

A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE VLADIVOSTOK AND MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS WOULD REPRESENT A POSITION CLOSER TO THE ONE FAVORED IN THE KREMLIN, AS OPPOSED TO THE PLAN FOR FAR MORE SWEEPING ARMS REDUCTIONS AND LIMITS ON MISSILE MODERNIZATION FAVORED BY PRESIDENT CARTER.

U.S. OFFICIALS INSIST, HOWEVER, THAT ANY NEW AGREEMENT CONTAIN A COMMITMENT BY BOTH SIDES TO BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY ON A THIRD SALT AGREEMENT THAT WOULD SEEK THOSE BROADER OBJECTIVES.

THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF SOVIET MOVEMENT FROM THE PREVIOUSLY FIRM POSITION CAME IN THE FIRST OF TWO SESSIONS TODAY.

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STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE SOVIETS HAD MADE "A PRESENTATION" DURING A SESSION IN WHICH GROMYKO DID ALL THE TALKING.

CARTER DECLINED TO DESCRIBE THIS AS A "COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL," APPARENTLY IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID EVEN THE SLIGHTEST EMBARRASSMENT TO EITHER PARTY. BOTH SIDES CAME HERE INSISTING THAT THEY WERE BRINGING NOTHING NEW. CARTER SAID THE SOVIETS PRESENTED "A NUMBER OF IDEAS."

### 3. BARRY SCHWEID LEAD STORY ON AP

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE ANNOUNCED TODAY HE HAD REACHED A 'GENERAL AGREEMENT' WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO ON A 'COMMON FRAMEWORK OF A NEW TREATY TO LIMIT NUCLEAR WEAPONS'".

OTHER POINTS:

--- VANCE TOLD REPORTERS ACCORD WAS THREE-TIERED APPROACH THAT MAY IMPOSE TEMPORARY RESTRAINTS ON CRUISE AND BACK-FIRE. CUTBACKS IN WEAPONS ARSENALS AND COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER REDUCTIONS BEFORE THIS AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN 1985 ALSO INCLUDED.

--- SECSTATE EMPHASIZED "SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES." NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE IN GENEVA, WASHINGTON, AND AT ANOTHER MEETING WITH GROMYKO WHICH HAS YET TO BE ARRANGED.

--- ON MIDEAST, VANCE SAID BOTH SIDES AGREED GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD BE RECONVENED IN THE FALL AND WOULD WORK TO THAT END.

### 4. ROY GUTMAN LEAD STORY ON REUTERS

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LEAD: "THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE REACHED AGREE-

MENT ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACCORDS ON LIMITING DEVELOPMENT

OF STRATEGIC ARMS OVER THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS, SECSTATE VANCE SAID TODAY. BUT (HE) TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT 'SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENTS' REMAINED ON WHAT WEAPONS WOULD BE FITTED INTO A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY. DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE OVER THE COMING MONTHS, HE ADDED."

OTHER REUTERS STORIES MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--- GROMYKO SAID HE AND VANCE MADE "CERTAIN PROGRESS IN A CERTAIN NUMBER OF QUESTIONS." BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN THEY HAD ADVANCED TOWARD SOLUTION OF "PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS," AND MANY QUESTIONS HAD YET TO BE RESOLVED.

--- REASON FOR DIFFICULTIES WAS THAT US HAD NOT GIVEN UP ATTEMPTS TO REACH AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD GIVE IT UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES OVER USSR, GROMYKO SAID.

--- JOINT COMMUNIQUE SAID DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SIDES HAD BEEN NARROWED, AND DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE. (EXTENSIVE QUOTES)

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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